



SCHOOL BUS, INC.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT" **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

NEXT YEARS TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM

While attending the NAPT conference this past month I became certified to teach the Highway Watch Program for School Bus Drivers. That's the good news. The bad news is that I can not certify anyone else. This program was put together by NSTA, NAPT and the State Directors Assn. I would like to see us incorporate this program into next summer's TTT program. It is an excellent program and it is School Bus specific. This program is sponsored by Homeland Security to help with possible terrorist attacks. If we were to have one TTT class this next summer, Homeland Security will fly an instructor out to SD to certify all of our TTT at no cost to us. The class is about 2 ½ hours long. In order to make this work we need to plan early. I would look forward to your concerns, comments or questions concerning this project. Feel free to contact me concerning this project.

Final Head Start Deadline is January 18

Just a reminder that the final deadline for all Head Start transportation regulations is January 18, 2006. That's when the last provision—that all Head Start students must be transported in school buses or MFSABs—takes effect.

It's also the deadline for those Head Start programs that were granted an extension of the 2004 requirements for child restraint systems and monitors on all buses to be in compliance.

Safe Routes Program Getting Underway

As you may remember, the recently passed highway bill (SAFETEA-LU) provided funding for a Safe Routes to School grant program to help schools improve walking and biking conditions for students who don't ride the bus. This is a \$612 million, 5-year program that requires every state to appoint a full-time coordinator to oversee the program in that state. Each state will receive no less than \$1 million annually to distribute in grants to school districts. From 10% - 30% of the funds can go to educational and promotional activities, and 70% must be used for infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalks, bike paths, secure bicycle parking, and traffic calming within two miles of the school. The state agency responsible for SR2S is the Department of Transportation, and it is likely that the state coordinator will be located there. You may want to find out who in your state will manage the program, and whether there will be an opportunity for you (or your state association) to participate in the development of the state program. Although the legislation describes eligible projects and general goals of the program, states will have a certain amount of flexibility. For example, we learned that Maine has decided that grants can be used to improve walking routes to bus stops as well as to schools. One of the primary reasons for school bus folks to be involved is to prevent these monies from being used to reduce bus transportation in the guise of improving walking and biking routes. The Federal Highway Administration, lead agency for SR2S, has established a website for the program. As state coordinators are appointed, they will be listed on the website under "Contacts." (None are

listed yet.) To learn more about SR2S, and to check on your state, go to: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/index.htm>

RECALLS

IC RE school buses, manufactured from July 20 to October 17, 2005. The primary and secondary air supply tubes from the foot valve to the primary and secondary air tanks were reversed at the tank, which fails to conform with FMVSS No. 121.

If the primary air circuit is damaged, the brakes will not apply when the brake pedal is depressed. IC will notify owners beginning November 30.

Corbeil Minibus, manufactured from April 26 to May 21, 2004. An inadequate amount of glue was used to seal the roof joints, which fails to comply with FMVSS 221.

In the event of a crash, the longitudinal roof joint could have less strength than required.

Corbeil will repair the buses by adding additional glue and/or screws.

REMINDER

SDSTA will have their winter meeting in Sioux Falls at School Bus, Inc. Lunch will be furnished by the Assn. It is on December 29th at 10:30 AM. Please plan to attend.

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